

Cam Gordon

City Council Member Second Ward

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Deaf and hard-of-hearing persons may call 311 or 612-673-3000. TTY users may call 612-673-2157 or 612-673-2626.

Attention: If you want help translating this information in language other than Hmong, Spanish or Somali, call 311

Hmong - Ceeb toom. Yog koj xav tau kev pab txhais cov xov no rau koj dawb, hu 612-673-2800;

Spanish - Atención. Si desea recibir asistencia gratuita para traducir esta información, llama 612-673-2700;

Somali - Ogow. Haddii aad dooneyso in lagaa kaalmeeyo tarjamadda macluumaadkani oo lacag la' aan wac 612-673-3500.

Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to the Prospect Park East River Road Neighborhood, 11-26-12

Cam's next Prospect Park Office Hours: Pratt School, December 18th, 9:30-11am

Items:

- 1) Thanks for Voting
- 2) Election Results
- 3) Surly Brewing
- 4) Blood Plasma Center Rezoning Application
- 5) Climate Action Plan Open Houses
- 6) U Garden Liquor License
- 7) 2013 Budget Meetings
- 8) Airport
- 9) Recreational Fires
- 10) Sherco Coal Plant
- 11) Source Separated Organics Collection Study
- 12) Food Council Open House
- 13) Openings on Boards and Commissions
- 1) Thanks to everyone for voting on November 6. Your participation in our democracy is vital to health of our city, state and country. Gratitude is also due to the many election judges and elections professionals that worked hard throughout a long day to ensure the best election possible. Turnout of registered voters in the Second Ward was 81.11%, citywide it was 80.84%, both higher than the statewide turnout of 76%. Over 200,000 Minneapolis residents voted in person and, of those, 50,668 registered on Election Day. I know that many people waited in long lines in the cold and rain. As Chair of the Elections Committee I am helping coordinate a full review of this election. This will include a report to the Council's Elections Committee on December 3rd, at 11am, that will outline the challenges we faced and a precinct-by-precinct analysis of all polling place issues. I welcome your feedback your voting experience and on how well polling places worked in your area.
- 2) I am very pleased that both of the constitutional amendments to ban same-sex marriage and require voters to have a photo ID failed on November 6th. I'm proud that the City Council took a strong, unanimous stand against both amendments, and that the Second Ward voted so conclusively against them. 84% of Ward 2 residents voted against the marriage amendment, and 81% voted against the voter ID amendment. These percentages mean that the Second Ward had the fourth-highest percentage of the vote against both of these two amendments of all thirteen Minneapolis wards.
- 3) As you have likely heard, Surly Brewing Company is seriously exploring locating their brewery and taproom in the Second Ward, one block north of University Avenue and just east of Malcolm Ave SE. They will be applying for environmental remediation grants to deal with significant soil contamination of this land. I am very supportive of this idea, and have encouraged City Economic Development staff to help in any way we can. If Surly moves to the SEMI area, it will bring a large number of good paying jobs to the area, increase the vitality of the area, and represent one of the first major employers attracted by the Central Corridor LRT.
- 4) I am delighted to report that the Southeast Como Neighborhood is now offering \$5000 forgivable Homebuyer Incentive Loans towards down payment and closing costs. Up to 10 loans are available to anyone who buys a home in Como Neighborhood. The only eligibility requirement is that the buyer be an owner-occupant of the home purchased. The loans are forgivable in annual increments over 7 years. Details are at http://secomo.comogreenvillage.info/home/programs/housing-programs.

- 5) The City Council will have two public meetings before a final budget is approved: Wednesday, Nov. 28, 6:05 p.m. and Wednesday, Dec. 12, 6:05 p.m. Both will be held at City Hall, 350 South 5th Street, in room 317 Visit http://www.minneapolismn.gov/finance/budget/WCMS1P-097420 for more information on the Mayor's recommended budget.
- 6) CPM Development has applied for a rezoning to allow a blood/plasma collection facility in the existing building at 315 27th Ave SE. If approved, the property would be rezoned from light industrial (I1) to the City's most intensive commercial land use zone (C4). This is scheduled to come before the City Planning Commission for a public hearing on **Monday**, **December 3**, at **4:30pm** in Room 317 City Hall, 350 S 5th St. My understanding is that Planning staff will likely recommend against this rezoning request. If you have an opinion on this matter that you would like to have included in the public record, please email Kimberly Holien at Kimberly-Holien@minneapolismn.gov.
- 7) The City is updating our Climate Action Plan. The public is invited to two open houses to give feedback on draft recommendations that are now before the Climate Action Plan Steering Committee: Tuesday, November 27 from 5-7pm, at Powderhorn Park Community Center, 3400 15th Ave S, and Thursday, November 29 from 5:30-7:30pm, at the U of M Urban Research and Outreach-Engagement Center (UROC), 2001 Plymouth Ave N. The draft recommendations are available at www.minneapolismn.gov/sustainability/ climate.
- 8) The U Garden restaurant has received a class B liquor license, which includes a change to their operating conditions. The restaurant will no longer be required to serve food to every customer who orders an alcoholic beverage. The public hearing on this application was held in the neighborhood, and no one from the neighborhood attended to express any concerns.
- 9) The Metropolitan Airport Commissions (MAC) has been considering a new navigation system that could expose some people to more noise. This system, called "Area Navigation" or "RNAV," puts planes on more precise routes and they fly the same routes continually. The hope is that by having planes take the most direct route possible there will be savings to fuel (and money) and reduced emissions. Concerns have arisen related to increased aircraft noise over certain areas and insufficient community engagement regarding the tracks, so the City provided comments calling for more time and a better community engagement process. At its meeting on November 19th the MAC voted to not to proceed with new flights path plan proposed to go over Minneapolis.
- 10) The Citizens Environmental Advisory Committee and Public Health Advisory Committee have both drafted recommendations on recreational fires, and will present their comments to the Council's Public Safety, Civil Rights and Health committee on Wednesday, November 28th at 1:30pm. Both groups advocate for the Council to amend the recreational fire ordinance to prohibit fires during air quality alert days, and for various departmental changes to better educate residents about the rules regarding fires and respond effectively to illegal or nuisance fires. After the PSCR&H meeting, I plan to initiate the process to make the recommended changes to the City's recreational fire ordinance early next year.
- 11) Responding to a recommendation by the Citizens Environmental Advisory Committee, the Council has directed Solid Waste and Recycling staff to study City collection of Source Separated Organics and report the findings to the Council by April of next year. This study will answer the cost, co-collection, processing and hauling questions, and allow the Council to adopt a clear goal for when the City should begin to collect organic waste in addition to recycling, yard waste and garbage. I view this as a major step towards making our city more sustainable. It does not make sense to send our compostable organic waste to the garbage burner and lose all of the nutrients in it including fixed nitrogen, phosphorous and more when we could be turning it back into soil.
- 12) I testified at a Public Utilities Commission hearing in favor of requiring Xcel Energy study how clean energy options can replace the dirty Sherco coal plant. I am very pleased to say that the PUC has ruled in favor of my position. I view this as a major win for clean energy, and a possible phase-out of a coal plant that pollutes our air and water.
- 13) The Minneapolis Food Council is holding an Open House on **Wednesday**, **December 5**, from 5:30-9pm at East Phillips Park Cultural and Community Center, 2307 17th Ave S. Participants will hear an update on Minneapolis' progress with urban agriculture initiatives, hear from two urban farmers and weigh in on possible future policies and programs. The open house will include an information fair with organizations that support urban agriculture; lessons on composting, gardening and bee keeping; and a discussion on the future work of the Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council. Sisters Camelot will serve a light dinner from 6-7 p.m. The event is free and open to the public, but please RSVP to jane.shey@minneapolismn.gov.
- 14) There are openings on the Arts Commission, Charter Commission, Environmental Advisory Committee, Civil Rights Commission, Disabilities Advisory Committee, Heritage Preservation Commission, Housing Board of Appeals, Pedestrian Advisory Committee, Planning Commission, Police Conduct Oversight Commission, Police Conduct Review Panel, Public Health Advisory Committee, Senior Advisory Committee, MTN Board, ThincGreen Advisory Committee, Youth Violence Prevention Committee and Zoning Board of Adjustment. To apply, call (612) 673-3358 or email cityclerk@minneapolismn.gov.